

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended): A method for launching a web browser application on a user's computer, comprising the steps of:

providing a browser application on the user's computer that is launchable in response to predetermined browser inputs being received by the user's computer, which predetermined browser inputs comprise a set of user computer inputs that are operable to be interfaced to outputs of one of a plurality of physical external computer peripherals;

providing a non-browser input that is not a portion of the set of predetermined browser inputs for generating an input signal that is not part of the set of physical computer inputs and which are not generated thereby;

converting the non-browser input in an interface device to simulate as a simulated browser input to the user's computer one or more of the predetermined browser inputs, such that an input that is associated with one of the outputs of one of the physical external computer peripherals will be able to receive information from the non-browser input just as if it had been generated by the one of the outputs of the one of the computer peripherals, such that the browser interprets the received simulated browser input as being generated by one of the plurality of external physical computer peripherals; and

launching the web browser on the user's computer over a connection established with this simulated browser input and, in response thereto, accessing information on a network.

2. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing a non-browser input comprises:

providing a first portion of the non-browser input that is generated local and external to the user's computer at the user's location;

providing a second portion of the non-browser input that is retrievable from a separate location than the first portion; and

combining the first and second portions to provide the non-browser input.

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3. (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the second portion is not retrieved from a location local to the user's computer.

4. (Original): The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of providing the second portion comprises retrieving the second portion from a location on the network by accessing the network from the user's computer to an intermediate location on the network, retrieving the second portion therefrom and transferring the retrieved second portion back to the user's computer for use by the step of combining.

5. (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the first portion comprises reading a machine readable code, the step of reading a machine readable code comprising causing the generation of the first portion.

6. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of converting comprises the step of adding additional information to the input information received from the non-browser input.

7. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 6, wherein the additional information comprises a control code.

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